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Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

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A Chicago Tribune publication

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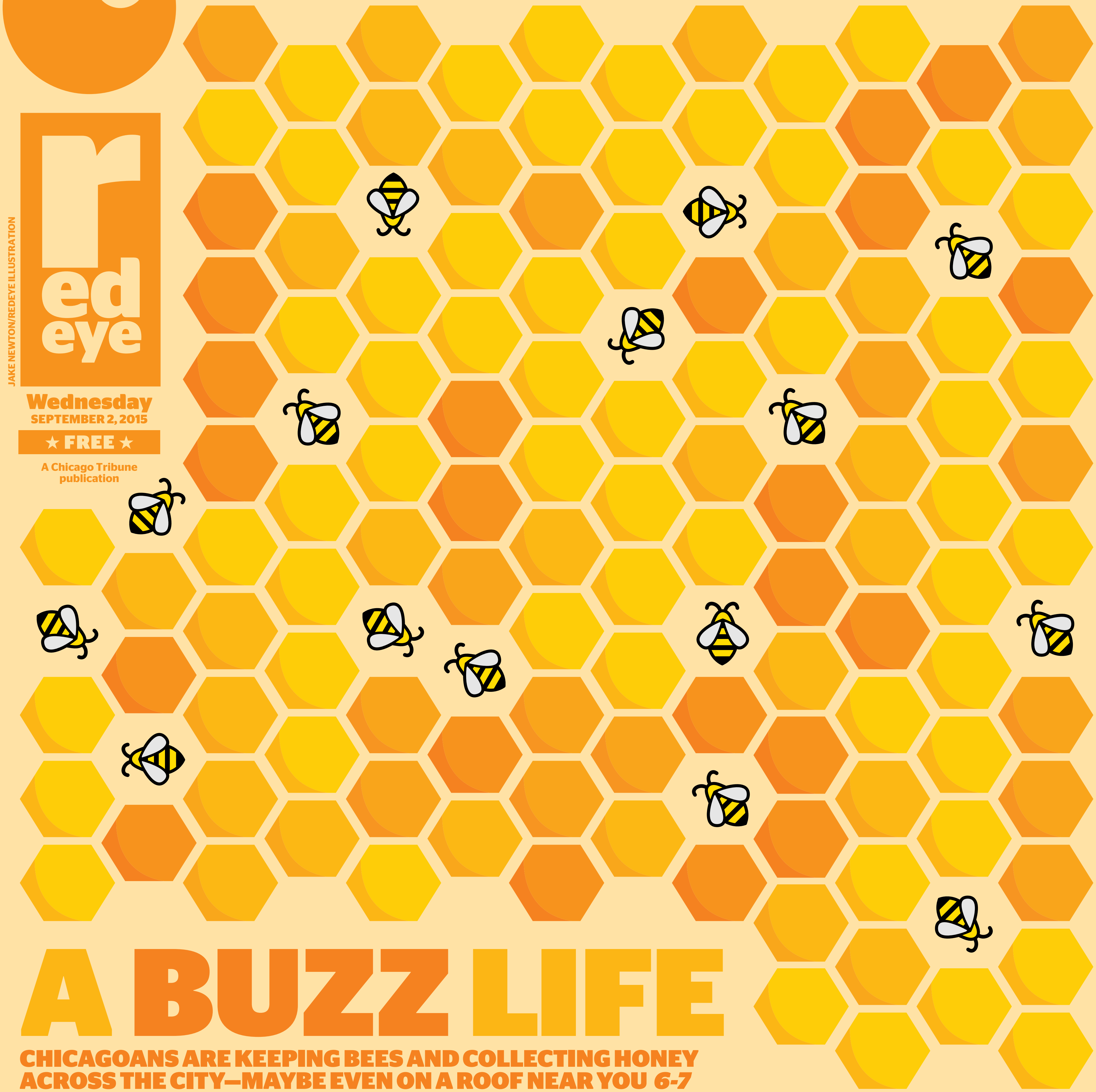

JAKE NEWTON/REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

A BUZZ LIFE

CHICAGOANS ARE KEEPING BEES AND COLLECTING HONEY ACROSS THE CITY—MAYBE EVEN ON A ROOF NEAR YOU *6-7*

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM

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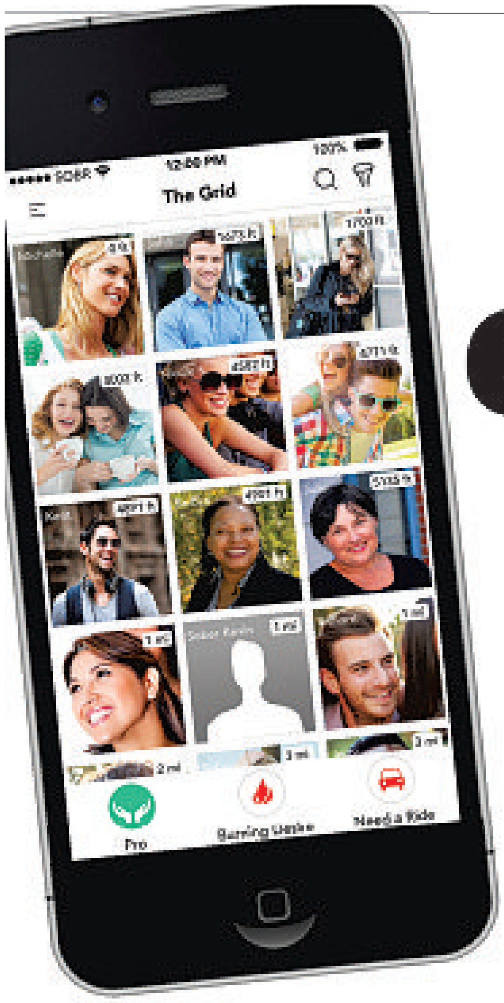
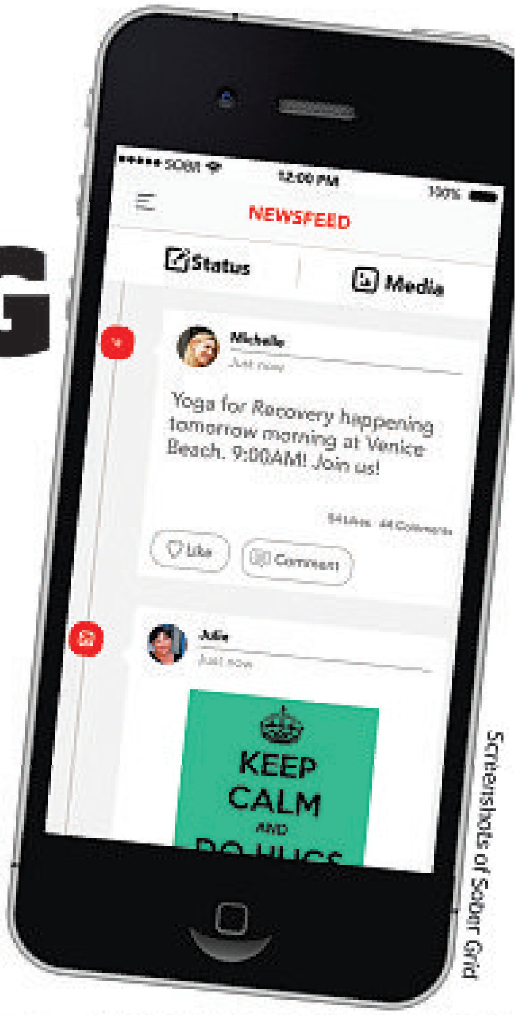


CONNECTING THROUGH SOBRIETY

SOBER APPS AIM TO FACILITATE RECOVERY, BUILD COMMUNITY



Yoga for Recovery happening tomorrow morning at Venice Beach. 9:00AM! Join us!

Screenshots of Sober Grid

> When you're in recovery and you're in alone, you can entertain some pretty outrageous thoughts that, had you been around some other sober people, you might not have otherwise thought about.
>
> —Zachary Siegel

By Matt Lindner | FOR REDEYE

Finding sober people to connect with in a city like Chicago where alcohol is woven so tightly into the civic social fabric can be a bit of a challenge, especially if you yourself are in recovery.

"People want to go out and party," said Zachary Siegel, a 26-year-old Old Town resident and recovering heroin addict. "If you're sober and you're young, it's a bit difficult to ground yourself in a community of other young people."

But now, as with just about any other facet of our daily lives, there are apps designed to help people who are choosing to live a sober lifestyle connect with one another, both platonically and romantically.

ADDICTION

A YEARLONG EXPLORATION OF DEPENDENCY

/ADDICTION

#ADDICTION2015

An app called Sober Grid is aiming to fill the void from the making-friends perspective.

Sober Grid, which is free to download and is available for both Apple and Android devices, is a geolocation-based app that shows you a grid of other sober people who are in your area. It also features a public Facebook-style news feed where users can post messages seeking advice from others in the area. Users can pay up to $39.99 for a full year to have access to enhanced features including anonymous browsing, photo albums and an enhanced profile.

"We are not a 12-step program," said Chris Pesce, Sober Grid's marketing director and himself a recovering alcoholic. "We're a tool that complements those programs."

Another thing Sober Grid isn't—a hookup app.

"As with any other social media, certainly some people are gonna use it for that, but that's not the goal of the app," Pesce said. "The purpose of Sober Grid is to connect people in sobriety or people who are interested in living a sober lifestyle with others near them."

Pesce said the app, which boasts around 30,000 users around the world, is aimed more at building a strong and supportive community both for people who are in recovery and those who simply choose to live a sober lifestyle.

"We have a lot of people who are new to sobriety, but the great thing is we also have a lot of people with long-term sobriety," he said. "If you check out the news feed, you'll find a lot of people are looking for guidance, looking for meetings, and others reaching out to support and to help and to guide other folks."

Building that support network, Siegel said, is key when you first decide to live a sober lifestyle.

"For young people in recovery, having a support network of friends and family and people who care about you is critical," he said. "When you're in recovery and you're in alone, you can entertain some pretty outrageous thoughts that, had you been around some other sober people, you might not have otherwise thought about."

And if those thoughts do creep in, Sober Grid has a "Burning Desire" feature that functions as a digital flare signaling that a user needs some support, and fast.

Of course, if you do want to find romance with other sober people, there is an app for that as well. Sober is a free app that functions as a sort of Tinder for people who don't drink or do drugs. The interface is almost indistinguishable from Tinder, where users can swipe right or left through pictures of other people in their area. Sober representatives didn't respond to requests for comment.

Siegel, who said he has downloaded Sober Grid but hasn't actually messaged anybody through the app just yet, said that apps like these do present a value to the younger generation.

"With these apps, I think that they'll pick up speed and I think that they'll prove to be useful for a lot of people," he said. "If you go to AA meetings, you're bound to meet sober people and hang out with them. People are super busy now and can't always find a meeting."

Sober Grid has raised $500,000 in venture capital funding to date.

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When did you last go on a date without drinking?

Matt Lindner
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Alcohol is seemingly as much a part of Chicago's social scene as sunshine is in the summer.

From the corner bar to the ballpark, from the outdoor festivals to the rooftop patios and beer gardens, alcohol seems to be our favorite plus one when enjoying that all-too-rare perfect weather we crave during our miserable winters. It also dominates our conversations. Meet someone new and one of the first questions you'll inevitably ask is what kind of bars they prefer. In fairness, their answer is usually one that will inform whether your personalities will be compatible.

In researching today's story on sober social networking apps, I learned there was a Tinder-esque one called Sober aimed at romantically connecting people who choose not to drink, and it got me thinking ... when was the last time you went on a date without drinking?

I'm not talking going out with someone and getting completely blackout drunk with them (although if that's your thing, that's cool, too). I'm talking about simply going out with a person and enjoying their conversation without having a single beer, glass of wine or cocktail.

People in my Chicago social circles drink before and during dates. With the former, it's to calm the inevitable jitters that come with going on a first date. Ask a group of your friends how many of them have pregamed a date, and it's highly likely that more than a handful of them will answer in the affirmative. On the latter, it's virtually impossible to go somewhere that alcohol isn't offered and abundantly available.

I've lived in the city almost five years and am fully capable of having a good time with or without alcohol, but after thinking about it, I realized something: In those nearly five years, I have been on exactly one date during which neither of us had a single drink. It wasn't a first date, and we weren't intentionally trying not to drink; it was just a thing that happened.

It was an unmitigated disaster. She's a fantastic woman, and we had been on several promising dates leading up to that one, but for the two-and-a-half hours that we were on that date, things were just so ... awkward.

Otherwise, good dates, bad dates (including one particularly memorable one that I turned into a drinking game while on said bad date), mediocre dates ... almost all of them have involved alcohol in some way, shape or form.

Part of that is because it's the social norm these days. Seemingly everyone has a glass (or bottle, in some cases) of wine or a beer or two prior to venturing out into the wild because let's face it, dating is a universally awkward experience and alcohol helps make it a little less horrible. You tend to let your guard down and open yourself up in ways you wouldn't otherwise. The other part of that is because alcohol is seemingly unavoidable in this city. Go out to a restaurant? Sure, I'll have a glass of wine with dinner! Movies in Millennium Park? Why not grab a six-pack before we head over there! But what if we could avoid it? What struck me during an interview for the sober social networking apps piece was a line from former heroin user Zachary Siegel, a 26-year-old Old Town resident who said that when speaking to people in recovery, he has told them, "being sober isn't a social-life death sentence." And maybe he's right. Maybe if, instead of centering our social lives around drinking, we actually took a break once in a while. Yeah, dating is an uncomfortable proposition, but so is the idea of going on an endless string of awful first dates, hoping this one is at long last the last first date you'll ever have to endure.

The road to Happily Ever After is inevitably littered with potholes and speed bumps. That's why, when people talk about it, it's in caps. It's worth the wait, that's why, or so I'm told. Maybe if we took the sober route to get there, we'd reach our destination a lot quicker while hitting fewer potholes along the way.

MATT LINDNER IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

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Jana Kinsman of Bike a Bee (center) shows Brekke Bounds (right) how to properly separate honey from the comb with a pick while Lucas Rickerson (left) stands nearby. LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE PHOTOS

CITY BUZZING

Sure, they sting, but bees also provide mystery, meditation and therapy for their keepers

By Margaux M. Henquinet | REDEYE

You never know what you might find on a Chicago rooftop—a classy lounge, a chill patio, a collection of lawn chairs. But from the Loop to the neighborhoods, there are a few rooftops that are home to a different kind of buzz—the literal buzz of hundreds of thousands of honeybees.

Beekeeping is nothing new in Chicago. There were 124 beekeepers and 340 colonies in Chicago registered with the state as of November 2014, according to the state Department of Agriculture (keepers are supposed to register their hives or may face penalties).

Their hives are on rooftops and in community gardens. Their wares are at farmers markets, online, in shops or just shared. These keepers are old, young, and living in all different neighborhoods. But after talking to several, it's clear they share one thing: They're pretty crazy about what they do.

Jefferson Shuck & Michael S. Thompson, Chicago Honey Co-Op

Jefferson Shuck, 24, of Logan Square, got into beekeeping by what he called a series of "happy accidents." After he moved to Chicago around Christmas 2013, he searched for a local honey company—he has allergy problems, and honey is a good form of allergy relief, he explained. That search led him to the Chicago Honey Co-Op, where he met Michael S. Thompson, 64, one of the founders of the group. Shuck started working with them last year.

The co-op has about 30 members and four sites in Chicago, for a total of about 50 hives, each of which can have about 50,000 bees in the summer.

On a recent Monday morning, the two of them worked to collect frames of honeycombs from hives atop Christy Webber Landscapes, a building not far from a Metra yard. With the city skyline visible behind them, they worked carefully to brush the bees off each frame—Shuck using a brush, Thompson using a bundle of branches he cut from a rooftop plant—before placing the frame into a box, which they would later cart away by bicycle to their warehouse for harvesting.

Shuck, who also works as a massage therapist, said he finds beekeeping therapeutic. You have to move deliberately and slowly, like a meditation, he said, and use all of your senses: sight, taste (in tasting the honey), touch (in having an awareness of where your body is, so you don't bump into the hive), smell (he said he thinks a young, healthy hive smells like the head of a newborn) and sound (a hive with a laying queen, he said, will buzz like a revving car engine when doused with smoke).

He doesn't keep his own bees, though he has been thinking about it for next year.

Thompson became a beekeeper when he was 12 years old and living on the edge of Wichita, Kan. He had hounded his parents for a beehive, and they finally bought him one for his birthday.

When he moved to Chicago at 19, he found that he missed beekeeping and growing food, but he soon realized that he had everything he needed in the city: the perfect climate, rain, good soil. He teaches about 60 students a year in beekeeping classes in the winter and spring. The Co-Op is his full-time job, but he had been a landscape contractor for 25 years.

Thompson said beekeeping is "very hard, heavy, hot work," but also incredibly fun. "There is just this magical thing about having honeybees, and even though I've been keeping them all my life, every time I open a hive, this mystery occurs," he said. "There is such a beauty to it that words can hardly describe it."

Jana Kinsman, Bike a Bee

Jana Kinsman was interested in urban farming, but she didn't have a yard and thought she was "pretty bad at growing stuff." So she wondered, "What's the easiest livestock?" That turned out to be bees, she said, so she took a class with the Chicago Honey Co-Op, took "like a million pages of notes, and I was riveted," she said. "I was like, 'I gotta try this out.' "

ABOVE: Jana Kinsman looks at a honeycomb. RIGHT: A centrifuge releases honey that has been collected.

Five years later, Kinsman, 29, of Pilsen, is founder and head beekeeper of her own beekeeping business, Bike a Bee. That first year, she set up a Kickstarter to fund her first 10 hives, all in community gardens or urban farms; today, she travels by bicycle between her 37 hives throughout the city, some of which are registered (her hives change year to year). When she started, she contacted area community gardens to ask about placing beehives in them; today, garden groups call her.

“Every time you open up a hive ... you never know what you’re gonna see, and that’s what makes it so exciting,” she said.

Kinsman said she even loves how hard beekeeping is—sweating, getting stung and working by bicycle. She said that keeping many hives is difficult—you have to keep an eye on the weather, be flexible and have a lot of hives to turn a profit.

“But that said ... I love every aspect of farming, including all of the times when nature just wants to crush your dreams,” she said. “But it’s just part of the whole cycle, and ... be prepared to work outside when it’s hot, and be prepared to sweat and get stung.”

Gary ‘Hal’ Link, Bubbly Creek Honey, and Rob Hicks, The Chicago Beekeeping Meetup Group Web page

The Bridgeport Art Center, a big, imposing brick building, doesn’t look like a place for agriculture. But ride the elevator and climb the rickety stairs to the roof and there they are, the hives of Gary “Hal” Link’s Bubbly Creek Honey. U.S. Cellular Field is to the east, the river is to the west, and the bees are in the air, floating toward and away from their hives.

On a recent sunny Saturday morning, Link, his friend Rob Hicks and a handful of other people who keep bees or were interested in doing so worked together to collect the honey from Link’s hives, sharing tips and comparing opinions and experiences as they worked.

Link, 50, grew up in a rural area near Bloomington, Ind. He was 10 years old when he and his best friend at the time helped the friend’s grandfather capture a swarm, a group of bees that is searching for a new home. After the experience, he “sort of fell in love with just sort of watching the way the bees work,” he said.

Link has been involved with keeping bees for nine years now, helping Hicks with his hives. This year, Link finally has hives of his own.

Primarily, Link keeps bees for his own honey production—“because in the end I’m a big bear,” he said—but also because he’s interested in keeping “an eco-friendly footprint.” He also uses the wax in his woodworking business.

When Hicks attended a class called “A Skep in the Garden” in 2005, expecting a gardening class, he didn’t know that “skep” is the name for the straw hives that keepers have been housing bees in for centuries. He found himself in a beekeeping class taught by New York’s state bee inspector, who “made just such a great case for the plight of the honeybee that I felt I’d give it a try until someone told me I [had to] stop,” Hicks said.

Today, Hicks, now 44, has several hives of his own and teaches his own classes on beekeeping and the history of it. He also maintains The Chicago Beekeeping Meetup Group, a Web page that helps local beekeepers, groups and classes connect, which he said has grown since he took over in 2008 from 200 to 700 members—not all beekeepers or actively attending meetings, he said, but the interest is there.

Hicks said he thinks beekeeping is a service— he likes that it helps pollinate his own backyard and his neighbors’, that it’s good for the environment and that the honey and stings have helped fight his allergies. Link said he thinks there’s a meditative quality to beekeeping. “There are times that I go up on the roof and just set up a chair and sit and just watch the front of the hives, just watching them all come in and out,” he said.

Does honey make money?

Though some Chicago beekeepers have found ways to make money off their beehives, selling products at farmers markets or online, it’s not necessarily a way to make a living.

“No one should be getting into it as a business opportunity,” Kinsman said. “... It’s a hard business.”

She said beekeeping is a full-time job for her in the amount of time it requires, and the project sustains itself, but she has another business that pays her rent and other expenses.

She said she thinks it’s extremely difficult to beekeep just for honey and expect that to be your main income—a beekeeper also needs to offer “value-added products,” like the Honey Co-Op does, offering classes, body products and more, she said. In addition to selling her honey at farmers markets, she is now giving her wax and leftover honey to Roscoe Village’s Scratch Goods, which will make body products out of it.

Beekeeping is a hobby for Link, not an income, though he said he recently sold his honey at the farmers market outside the Bridgeport Arts Center. He sold shares in his hives this year to recoup the costs of setting them up; each of his shareholders received honey and beeswax.

The challenges of beekeeping in Chicago ...

Density of people, fear of bees: Link said his neighbors have said they’re not happy about the possibility of him keeping bees at his East Village home. “Part of being an urban beekeeper is being able to educate the other people around you so they’re not fearful of them, teach them about it, bribe them with honey, whatever,” Link said.

Transporting honey, equipment: It’s tricky in a city filled with traffic, but that can be worked around by operating by bicycle, which Kinsman and Thompson both do.

Terrible Chicago winters: Link said many beekeepers he knew lost 75 percent of their hives in the past two winters, and Thompson said the Co-Op has a problem with their bees dying in the winter. But the keepers said bees are adaptable; they survive. They generally reported that they check on their hives even less often in winter, and don’t do much to prepare them other than making sure they have enough honey to last them through the season.

... and the upsides

Abundant clean food: Kinsman said bees are actually better off in the city—there’s a wide variety of plants for them to feed from, and no chemicals are used on the majority of it. Chicago’s public parks, parkways and vacant lots are a great resource for bees, she said.

Chicago has ‘the finest honey’: Thompson said he’s tasted honey from all over the world, but Chicago honey is of much higher quality than the rest of them, “the finest honey [he’s] ever produced in his life.”

Close-knit community: The city’s beekeeping community is a fairly close one, and one with a strong sense of support. Kinsman has an apprentice, just as she was once an apprentice herself, and she said that she sometimes asks Thompson what to do when she has a problem with bees.

Shuck said, “In Chicago, there are so many beekeepers, and everyone’s just trying to help everybody else. It’s a great place to do beekeeping.”

MHENQUINET@REDEYECHICAGO.COM | @GAUXMARGAUX

About those stings...

Yes, if you go into beekeeping, you’re going to get stung. But if you’re careful, it won’t happen as often as you might think. These beekeepers, who work with at least hundreds of thousands of bees, mostly reported having been stung just a few times this year, and several said that when they got stung, it was their own fault. Most of them wear little protection—a veil, gloves, maybe a long-sleeved shirt.

How do you avoid a sting?

1. Don’t get in their way—Be aware of the arc-shaped flight path they follow to and from their hive’s entrance, and stay out of it.

2. Keep a careful eye out—Don’t pick up tools without checking for bees.

3. Wear light colors—Bees have an evolutionary response to dark colors, Jana Kinsman explained, because many of their natural predators are dark, such as bears and skunks.

If you get stung...

» Get the stinger out as quickly as possible—Jefferson Shuck said the stinger can still pump venom after it has left the bee’s body.

» Kinsman looks for the plantain plant, or plantago, which she said grows all over in Chicago. She said to chew on a leaf, put it on the sting, then cover it with a bandage.

» Shuck recommended putting honey on stings as a natural antibacterial.

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THREE-PEAT?

CHICAGO MAY NOT WANT TO SHARE NFL DRAFT, AS EXPERTS SUGGEST

By Paul M. Banks | FOR REDEYE

Unless the city of Chicago builds a domed stadium (must have a retractable roof, too), it likely never will host a Super Bowl or a Final Four.

However, Mayor Emanuel did convince the NFL to hold the draft in the Windy City this spring, the first time in a half-century it was staged outside New York. Chicago is set for a repeat performance in 2016, but the event's location for 2017 and beyond is up for grabs.

Should Chicago get a three-peat? While the Bears gear up for one last preseason game, RedEye asked top NFL pundits for their take on the league's spring showcase.

BRIAN ROLAPP
NFL executive vice president of media

"When Mayor Emanuel came out and said, 'I'm going to commit the city and we're going to make it big,' he was great to work with. Whether it's the Super Bowl or the draft or whatever it happens to be, when the city really wants you there, it just makes the event that much more special.

"Being in Chicago allowed us to experiment with making it about much more than just the theater and the people in it. What we did out in Grant Park, making a bigger celebration and festival of football, exceeded all of our expectations.

"This is really the second year we're trying something different, and we're excited for it to be in Chicago to innovate and improve upon what we've already done there."

JIM NANTZ
CBS announcer

"I think it's a testament to Chicago, what they did this first year that the league wants to come right back the second year to the Windy City, so I'm happy for them for that."

TONY GONZALEZ
analyst, "The NFL Today"

"I think they should rotate it, just like the Super Bowl. I think it would be cool and a great experience for fans. If it was in Green Bay—how cool would that be?—Kansas City, San Francisco. It's become way more of a spectacle now and people look forward to it. If I was the NFL, I would keep rotating it."

DAN FOUTS
NFL Hall of Famer and CBS announcer

"It was a success in Chicago and it's a success in New York; it will be successful anywhere. I like the idea of moving it around. [It] gives local fans a chance to voice their opinion instead of the same people yelling at the bad drafts of some home teams.

"I think moving it around is a good idea, but I wouldn't have it out for bid. But I'm sure the NFL will think about that and they'll probably make a couple of million [dollars] off of that."

BART SCOTT
analyst, "The NFL Today"

"It could stay. I mean Chicago could have it for a little while. New York, we get a lot of stuff; we could do without it."

LONDON FLETCHER
analyst, "That Other Pregame Show"

"It would be great for some cities out there that you know aren't going to get a Super Bowl."

PAUL M. BANKS IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. @PAULMBANKS

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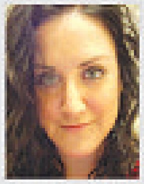
CHICK-Y

Who knew so many people thought the Patriots coach basically should have his own reality show?

	Michelle Lopez @michelleglopez Mash designer/ digital editor	 **Katie Gibson** @klgibbles WGN producer	**Clark Jones** @theeclarkjones Stand-up comic	**Shaun Davis** @ShaunMDavis7 WGN Radio producer	**Soxman** @thesoxman72 Caped Sox crusader
1 **Like Kobe and Shaq, what other feuding athletes should bury the hatchet?**	Mayweather and Rousey. You know Ronda would destroy him.	A.J. Pierzynski and pretty much every batter that's been in the box.	Jay Cutler and the NFL playoffs haven't talked in a while.	KG and Melo should squash things over a bowl of #HoneyNutCheerios.	Jay Cutler needs to forgive himself. There is two people worth of ego there.
2 **First, Jim Harbaugh's "khaki cam," next ...**	... stick a camera on Bill Belichick's ratty sweatshirt and call it "spy cam."	... Bill Belichick's "hoodie cam." You know it already exists.	... the "codpiece cam" by Brett Favre.	... the Belichick #HoodieCam. #CheatGear	... the "Fox hole." Trust me. You don't want to know.
3 **What was Tom Brady really thinking as he waved and said "thank you" to the courtroom artist?**	"Bye, Felicia!"	"Thank you for making me as ugly on the outside as I am on the inside."	"I got a few deflated balls ..."	"Maybe you can draw me better if I move a little bit."	"How in the heck did she know what I looked like without my makeup on?"
4 **Losing a bet to a Little Leaguer is like ...**	... losing a bet to anyone in my family. You never hear the end of it.	... putting your faith in Starlin Castro. You know it's probably a bad idea, but it's just a kid, right?	... what happened every Saturday when I played ball on the South Side.	... losing in your NCAA bracket pool. Most winners guess.	... the ultimate warning that a Vegas vacation might not be in the cards.
5 **Who said this and about what?: "So I'm heartbroken and I'm moving on, but I understand."**	Me, the night I didn't have cash for the tamale guy.	RGIII on the Redskins' now-defunct love affair with him.	Jaden Smith to an ice cream cone machine about his sanity.	Peyton Manning after last year's playoff loss to the Colts. #LUCKy	Adam LaRoche after being benched for taking "replacing Adam Dunn's offensive production" literally.

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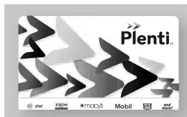

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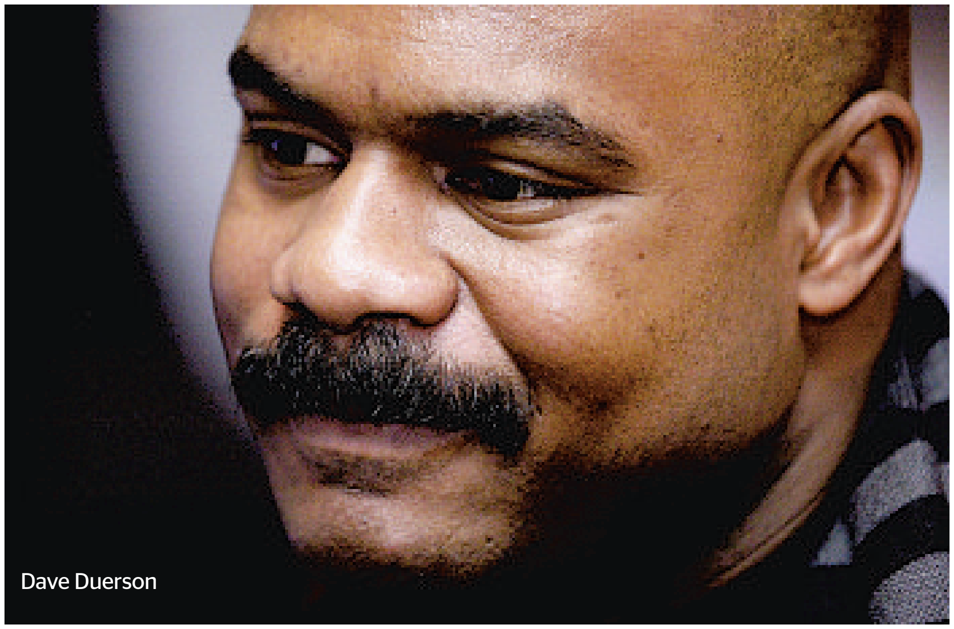


Dave Duerson

EX-BEAR PORTRAYED IN WILL SMITH MOVIE

Will Smith stars as Dr. Bennet Omalu, the neuropathologist who first discovered chronic traumatic encephalopathy in the brains of football players, in the movie "Concussion."

A trailer for the movie, which hits theaters Dec. 25, was released Monday.

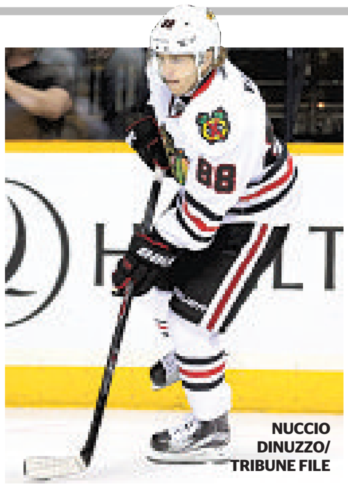
In the movie, actor Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje portrays former Bears defensive back Dave Duerson. Duerson, who played in the NFL for 11 seasons and on the 1985 Bears, took his own life in 2011. Later that year, Boston University researchers announced that Duerson's brain had evidence of CTE.

The film also stars Alec Baldwin and Albert Brooks, and Luke Wilson reportedly will portray NFL commissioner Roger Goodell.

THE DIGIT

5

That's how many teams have contacted the Blackhawks about **Patrick Kane**'s trade availability in the wake of the ongoing investigation involving the star forward in Hamburg, N.Y., according to the Chicago Sun-Times.



NUCCIO DINUZZO/ TRIBUNE FILE

They're not buying it, Jay

Last season the Bears were riding high—at least at the cash register. The team was fourth in jersey sales among NFL teams through Dick's Sporting Goods. But after a lousy 2014 record, Jay Cutler's jersey ranks 29th among all players, dropping 10 spots from where his No. 6 settled by the end of the 2014 season. Matt Forte currently leads all Bears at 23rd overall.

STOP. WATCH.

Wednesday's must-see event in sports

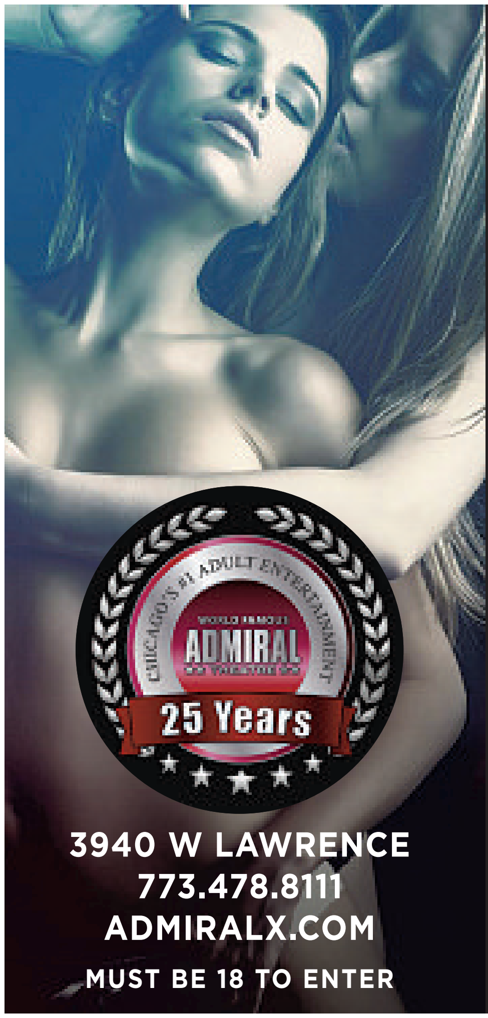
U.S. Open | *Noon-5 p.m. ESPN, 5-10 p.m. ESPN2*

Serena Williams continues her quest to win all four Grand Slams in a calendar year. Her opponent for Round 2: Kiki Bertens. Williams didn't even lose a game in her first-round match; there's a good chance she won't in this round either. So don't blink.

ALSO ON TAP

» Cubs vs. Cincinnati, 1:20 p.m. CSN » White Sox at Minnesota, 7:10 p.m. My50

WHO WON? For scores and more from Tuesday's action, visit **redeyechicago.com/sports.**



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- ■**Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
- ■**The Man From U.N.C.L.E.** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45
- ■**No Escape** (R) 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
- ■**Hitman: Agent 47** (R) (Closed caption) 12:30, 3:00, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
- ■**Straight Outta Compton** (R) (Closed caption) 12:45, 2:45, 4:00, 6:00, 7:15, 9:15, 10:30
- ■**Sinister 2** (R) 12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10
- ■**We Are Your Friends** (R) 1:00, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:30
- ■**American Ultra** (R) 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50

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- ■**Mistress America** (R) (Closed caption) 2:10, 4:55, 7:35, 10:10
- ■**The End of the Tour** (R) (Closed caption) 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55
- ■**Learning to Drive** (R) (Closed caption) 1:40, 4:15, 7:10, 9:50
- ■**Listen to Me Marlon** (NR) 1:55, 4:45, 7:40, 10:05
- ■**Best of Enemies** (R) 1:50, 4:00, 7:00
- ■**The Diary of a Teenage Girl** (R) (Closed caption) 1:35, 4:30, 7:25, 10:00
- ■**Amy** (R) (Closed caption) 9:45
- ■**Grandma** (R) (Closed caption) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:40

CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)

2600 N. Western Ave.

- ■**Jurassic World: An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:45, 2:50, 11:00
- ■**Artists Den Presents alt-J** (NR) ★ 7:30
- ■**Unsullied** (R) (Closed caption) 11:15, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:20
- ■**War Room** (PG) (Closed caption) 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
- ■**We Are Your Friends** (R) (Closed caption) 11:30, 2:10, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30
- ■**No Escape** (R) (Closed caption) 11:10, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50
- ■**American Ultra** (R) (Closed caption) 11:05, 6:45, 9:50
- ■**Hitman: Agent 47** (R) (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 11:00
- ■**Sinister 2** (R) (Closed caption) 11:55, 2:35, 5:15, 8:05, 9:55, 10:55
- ■**Straight Outta Compton** (R) (Closed caption) 12:10, 3:40, 7:10, 10:40
- ■**The Gift** (R) (Closed caption) 7:05, 10:05
- ■**Shaun the Sheep Movie** (PG) 1:35, 4:05
- ■**Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:30, 3:55, 7:00, 10:15
- ■**Ant-Man** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:25
- ■**Minions** (PG) (Closed caption) 11:35, 2:05, 4:35
- ■**Jurassic World** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:25, 3:30, 6:55
- ■**Avengers: Age of Ultron 3D** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:15, 4:00, 7:15, 10:35

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- ■**Minions** (PG) (Closed caption) 2:45, 5:00
- ■**Ant-Man** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10
- ■**Fantastic Four** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30
- ■**Jurassic World** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:50, 7:00
- ■**Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:15, 3:20, 6:30, 9:30
- ■**No Escape** (R) (Closed caption) 11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35
- ■**Hitman: Agent 47** (R) (Closed caption) 12:05, 2:30, 5:05, 7:30
- ■**Hitman: Agent 47** (R) (Closed caption) 9:55
- ■**Straight Outta Compton** (R) (Closed caption) 11:40, 12:15, 3:00, 6:45, 7:15, 9:35, 10:05, 10:35
- ■**Straight Outta Compton** (R) (Closed caption) 6:15
- ■**Sinister 2** (R) (Closed caption) 12:35, 2:55, 4:35, 5:25, 7:55, 9:45, 10:25
- ■**Southpaw** (R) (Closed caption) 1:35, 7:10
- ■**War Room** (PG) (Closed caption) 11:00, 12:00, 1:15, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
- ■**The Gift** (R) (Closed caption) 11:00, 4:30, 10:00
- ■**We Are Your Friends** (R) (Closed caption) 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:20
- ■**American Ultra** (R) (Closed caption) 12:45, 3:10, 5:35, 8:00, 10:25

LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 342-5555

- ■**The Diary of a Teenage Girl** (R) 12:10, 2:10, 4:20, 6:00, 9:30
- ■**Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation** (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
- ■**Straight Outta Compton** (R) 12:00, 3:00, 6:40, 9:40
- ■**Trainwreck** (R) 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 8:00, 10:20

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago
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- ■**No Escape** (R) (Closed caption) 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15
- ■**War Room** (PG) 2:00, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
- ■AMC Independent **Grandma** (R) (Closed caption) 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:05, 10:15
- ■**We Are Your Friends** (R) (Closed caption) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
- ■AMC Independent **A Walk in the Woods** (R) 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
- ■**Artists Den Presents alt-J** (NR) 7:30

MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago
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- ■**Phoenix** (PG-13) 4:30
- ■**Crime of Passion** (NR) 5:00, 9:00
- ■**Witness to Murder** (NR) 7:00
- ■**Royal Shakespeare Company: The Merchant of Venice -- Live** (NR) 7:00

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- ■**Pixels** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 3:50
- ■**Inside Out** (PG) (Closed caption) 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:55
- ■**Minions** (PG) (Closed caption) 11:40, 2:00, 4:20
- ■**Ant-Man** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:00, 4:30, 10:00
- ■**Ant-Man 3D** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:45, 7:15
- ■**Fantastic Four** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 6:50, 9:20
- ■**Jurassic World: An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG-13) 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
- ■**Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05
- ■**The Man From U.N.C.L.E.** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 3:40, 6:35, 9:20
- ■**Ricki and the Flash** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:20, 6:30
- ■**No Escape** (R) (Closed caption) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
- ■**Hitman: Agent 47** (R) (Closed caption) 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 9:30, 10:25
- ■**Straight Outta Compton** (R) (Closed caption) 12:25, 1:25, 3:40, 4:45, 7:00, 8:00, 9:10
- ■**Sinister 2** (R) (Closed caption) 11:15, 11:45, 1:40, 4:10, 5:15, 6:40, 7:45, 10:20
- ■**Southpaw** (R) (Closed caption) 2:15, 10:10
- ■**War Room** (PG) (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 9:00, 10:30
- ■**The Gift** (R) (Closed caption) 11:20, 1:55, 4:35, 7:20, 10:00
- ■AMC Independent **The Diary of a Teenage Girl** (R) (Closed caption) 11:30, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
- ■AMC Independent **Shaun the Sheep Movie** (PG) (Closed caption) 11:05, 1:20
- ■**We Are Your Friends** (R) (Closed caption) 12:45, 3:10, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30
- ■**American Ultra** (R) (Closed caption) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago

- ■**Artists Den Presents alt-J** (NR) ★ 7:30
- ■**A Walk in the Woods** (R) (Closed caption) 11:10, 12:00, 1:50, 2:40, 4:30, 5:20, 7:10, 8:00, 9:45, 10:35
- ■**We Are Your Friends** (R) (Closed caption) 11:20, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:50
- ■**No Escape** (R) (Closed caption) 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10
- ■**American Ultra** (R) (Closed caption) 2:35, 10:40
- ■**Hitman: Agent 47** (R) (Closed caption) 12:10, 5:05
- ■**Sinister 2** (R) (Closed caption) 11:00, 3:10, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30
- ■**Straight Outta Compton** (R) (Closed caption) 11:30, 3:00, 6:20, 7:00, 9:40, 10:20
- ■**The Gift** (R) (Closed caption) 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:45, 10:25
- ■**Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:05, 1:20, 4:15, 7:35, 10:00
- ■**Trainwreck** (R) (Closed caption) 10:55, 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:15
- ■**Inside Out** (PG) (Closed caption) 11:15
- ■**Inside Out 3D** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 1:40, 4:20

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- ■**Pixels** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 2:50, 5:30, 8:10
- ■**Inside Out** (PG) (Closed caption) 2:00, 4:40
- ■**Minions** (PG) (Closed caption) 2:30, 5:00
- ■**Ant-Man** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30
- ■**Fantastic Four** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 2:45, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40
- ■**Jurassic World** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 7:10, 10:10
- ■**Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
- ■**No Escape** (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
- ■**Hitman: Agent 47** (R) (Closed caption) 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:45
- ■**Straight Outta Compton** (R) (Closed caption) 1:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:00
- ■**Straight Outta Compton** (R) (Closed caption) 2:30, 6:00, 9:15
- ■**Sinister 2** (R) 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45
- ■**Southpaw** (R) (Closed caption) 10:20
- ■**War Room** (PG) (Closed caption) 1:40, 4:30, 10:30
- ■**The Gift** (R) 7:15, 10:15
- ■AMC Independent **Shaun the Sheep Movie** (PG) (Closed caption) 1:10
- ■AMC Independent **Shaun the Sheep Movie** (PG) 4:15
- ■**We Are Your Friends** (R) (Closed caption) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
- ■**American Ultra** (R) 6:30, 9:15

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION

Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago
(312) 564-2104

- ■**Artists Den Presents alt-J** (NR) ★ 7:30

VIP Premium 21+

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)

4779 W. Cerrnak., Cicero
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- ■**Pixels** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 5:00
- ■**Minions** (PG) (Closed caption) 1:15, 3:30, 5:45
- ■**Ant-Man** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 2:05, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15
- ■**Fantastic Four** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 8:00, 10:30
- ■**Jurassic World** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 2:15, 7:30, 10:10
- ■**Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:45
- ■**No Escape** (R) (Closed caption) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
- ■**Hitman: Agent 47** (R) (Closed caption) 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 7:55, 10:15
- ■**Straight Outta Compton** (R) (Closed caption) 12:30, 2:00, 4:00, 5:30, 7:15, 8:50, 10:30
- ■**Sinister 2** (R) (Closed caption) 1:20, 2:30, 4:00, 5:15, 6:45, 8:00, 9:30
- ■**War Room** (PG) 12:45, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
- ■**War Room** (PG) 2:00, 5:00, 8:00
- ■AMC Independent **Shaun the Sheep Movie** (PG) (Closed caption) 1:20, 3:35, 5:50
- ■**American Ultra** (R) (Closed caption) 8:05, 10:25

OAK PARK

LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street, Oak Park
(630) 444-FILM #560

- ■**Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
- ■**No Escape** (R) (Closed caption) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
- ■**Straight Outta Compton** (R) (Closed caption) 12:35, 3:40, 6:45, 9:50
- ■**A Walk in the Woods** (R) 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
- ■**Mr. Holmes** (PG) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00
- ■**American Ultra** (R) (Closed caption) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
- ■**The Gift** (R) 9:20
- ■**We Are Your Friends** (R) (Closed caption) 12:50, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45

EVANSTON

CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)

1715 Maple Ave., Evanston
(847) 491-9751 ♿

- ■**Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation** (PG-13) ♦ (Closed caption) 12:30, 4:00, 7:20, 10:20
- ■**Ant-Man** (PG-13) ♦ (Closed caption) 10:50, 4:10, 9:45
- ■**Trainwreck** (R) ♦ (Closed caption) 11:05, 1:55, 4:45, 7:40, 10:35
- ■**Grandma** (R) ♦ 10:40, 12:55, 3:05, 5:10, 7:35, 9:40
- ■**The Gift** (R) ♦ (Closed caption) 11:00, 4:15, 9:30
- ■**Ricki and the Flash** (PG-13) ♦ (Closed caption) 11:40, 4:40
- ■**Shaun the Sheep Movie** (PG) ♦ 2:25
- ■**The Man From U.N.C.L.E.** (PG-13) ♦ (Closed caption) 11:20, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40
- ■**Straight Outta Compton** (R) (Closed caption) 12:20, 3:40, 7:00, 10:15
- ■**Straight Outta Compton** (R) ♦ (Closed caption) 10:40, 2:00, 5:20, 8:40
- ■**Hitman: Agent 47** (R) ♦ (Closed caption) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:55, 10:25
- ■**The End of the Tour** (R) ♦ (Closed caption) 1:35, 6:50
- ■**Sinister 2** (R) ♦ (Closed caption) 12:10, 3:00, 5:35, 8:00, 10:30
- ■**American Ultra** (R) ♦ (Closed caption) 12:25, 2:55, 5:30, 8:05, 10:35
- ■**We Are Your Friends** (R) ♦ (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
- ■**No Escape** (R) ♦ (Closed caption) 11:30, 2:05, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55
- ■**Airplane!** (PG) ♦ 2:00, 7:00
- ■**Mistress America** (R) ♦ (Closed caption) 10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:45, 10:05
- ■**Learning to Drive** (R) ♦ 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20
- ■**Artists Den Presents alt-J** (NR) ♦ 7:30
- ■**Unsullied** (R) ♦ 10:45, 1:10, 3:30, 5:55, 8:20, 10:45
- ■**Phoenix** (PG-13) ♦ 11:25, 1:50, 4:25, 7:25, 9:50

MONTHLY CONCERT GUIDE

30 can't-miss shows in September

No cooling off

Brandon Flowers

By Andy Downing | FOR REDEYE

Summer—and, more importantly, the summer music festival season—continues its hold well into September with returning gatherings North Coast Music Festival (Friday through Sunday at Union Park) and Riot Fest (Sept. 11-13 at Douglas Park).

In addition, Chicagoans can look forward to killer shows from a smattering of still-vital music legends, including AC/DC, The Orb and Madonna.

Here are the month's 30 best concerts.

Jenny Hval

Sept. 3 at Constellation

On Jenny Hval's latest, "Apocalypse, girl," the experimental Norwegian explores issues of gender and desire, delivering her sometimes-cryptic words atop an uneasy, art-folk backdrop.

Modest Mouse

Sept. 3 at Concord Music Hall

Up until recently, actual mice have been louder than the Isaac Brock-led indie rock crew, which hadn't released a full-length in eight years before "Strangers to Ourselves" surfaced earlier this year.

Thee Oh Sees

Sept. 3 and 4 at Empty Bottle

On this year's "Mutilator Defeated at Last," the rowdy San Francisco garage crew peeled away some of the sonic moss without sacrificing its trademark intensity.

North Coast Music Festival

Sept. 4-6 at Union Park

It's a shame the phrase North Coast Music Festival can't be abbreviated as EDM, because the annual gathering's lineup is dominated by electronic acts such as the Chemical Brothers, Steve Aoki and Porter Robinson, and rounded out by hip-hop and soul acts such as The Roots and D'Angelo and the Vanguard.

Megan Nicole

Sept. 4 at Lincoln Hall

The Texas pop singer started small, posting cover songs to YouTube, and has since evolved into a multiplatform mogul with 3 million-plus YouTube subscribers, a record deal with Bad Boy and an in-development feature film.

Mutoid Man

Sept. 5 at Reggie's Rock Club

Mutoid Man's music merges its members' love for video games (the band's name is lifted from a boss in the arcade classic Smash TV) with a passion for full-throttle rock.

Ratatat

Sept. 8 at Riviera Theatre

"Magnifique," the duo's first album in five years, proves not everything changes with time, building upon the same breezy, instrumental rock soundscapes that informed its earliest work.

Of Montreal

Sept. 10 at Lincoln Hall

The title of the psych-rock collective's latest, "Aureate Gloom," is a bit misleading, because the album arrives packed with wild, Technicolor glam outbursts rather than downcast numbers.

Brandon Flowers

Sept. 11 at Riviera Theatre

The once and future Killer is currently making the rounds on his latest solo venture, "The Desired Effect," an homage to '80s arena rock that sounds like it was an absolute gas to record.

Riot Fest

Sept. 11-13 at Douglas Park

Ever-growing Riot Fest returns in a new location (Douglas Park), flaunting a typically diverse roster of vets (No Doubt, Ice Cube) and up-and-comers (Beach Slang).

Mikal Cronin

Sept. 13 at Empty Bottle

Cronin's "MCIII," released earlier this year, bridges his developing love of baroque pop with an ongoing fascination with loud, fuzzed-out guitars.

Built to Spill

Sept. 13 at Subterranean

The Idaho-based indie rock vets' eighth full-length, "Untethered Moon," lives up to its name, packing in a host of freewheeling guitar solos that consistently arch skyward.

AC/DC

Sept. 15 at Wrigley Field

Like Levi's denim jeans or original Coca-Cola, the AC/DC formula has remained relatively unchanged through the years, combining brash, stomping riffs with lyrics geared toward those about to rock.

K. Michelle and Azealia Banks

Sept. 16 at Aragon Ballroom

K. Michelle, best known to many for her stint on the reality show "Love & Hip-Hop: Atlanta," teams up with fierce, outspoken MC Azealia Banks for this double bill.

Ed Sheeran

Sept. 16 at Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre

The bright-haired Brit, who has written for One Direction and Taylor Swift, roughed up his coffeehouse folk on last year's "X," an album on which he spent nearly as much time lamenting his hard-drinking ways as the girl(s) who got away.

Rita Ora

Sept. 17 at Lincoln Hall

The British singer/actress hasn't released an album since 2012, but a handful of singles teased in recent months have stoked interest in her long-in-the-works sophomore effort, which is finally due out in September.

Best Coast

Sept. 18 at Metro

The breezy, '60s-girl-group-loving California duo should bring one last blast of summer fun before the turning of the season.

Low

Sept. 19 at Thalia Hall

In contrast with summer-loving Best Coast, Low flaunts an icy sound more in tune with winter days to come, favoring slower tempos shaped by both the weather and the pace in its Duluth, Minn., hometown.

AC/DC

Mikal Cronin

Madonna

OBN IIIs

Sept. 22 at Empty Bottle

Last year's "Third Time to Harm" hit like a blunt-force mix of sweat, shredded guitars and testosterone, and the Austin, Texas, garage-rock crew's bruising sound should leave its mark on the Bottle.

Heartless Bastards

Sept. 23 at Metro

The band's by-the-numbers blues-rock is greatly elevated by the presence of front-woman/force of nature Erika Wennerstrom, whose vocals swoop and soar over the terrain, lending a grandiosity to its sound.

Robert Plant and the Sensational Space Shifters

Sept. 23 at FirstMerit Bank Pavilion

Even at 67, former Led Zeppelin frontman Plant refuses to stay rooted, venturing into sprawling psych-rock with his backing collective the Sensational Space Shifters.

Lucinda Williams

Sept. 23 and 24 at City Winery

Last year's "Down Where the Spirit Meets the Bone" might be one of the most slept-on releases of 2014, pairing bleak songs that depict a brutal, unforgiving world with more tender numbers that glow like candles in the encroaching dark.

Cannibal Ox

Sept. 25 at the Abbey

The hip-hop duo's "Blade of the Ronin," released 14 years after their much-lauded debut, doesn't quite live up to its predecessor's promise, but considering the long layover there's remarkably little rust on dense, brainy cuts like "Iron Rose."

Wavves and Twin Peaks

Sept. 25 at the Vic

An ideal pairing of shaggy, garage-pop loving bands, one of which (Wavves) tends to run at a sprint while the other (Twin Peaks) adopts more of a strut.

Ride

Sept. 25 at Riviera Theatre

While the British shoegaze legends, who announced their reunion late last year after nearly two decades apart, haven't abandoned the idea of recording new music, their current tour is a throwback affair, drawing exclusively from a quartet of '90s albums.

Kool Keith

Sept. 26 at Promontory

It wouldn't be a surprise to learn that out-there rapper Kool Keith, who first emerged as a co-founder of the Ultramagnetic MCs in the late '80s, is actually made of clay, because he's shape-shifted so effortlessly over the course of his unpredictable, 25-year-plus career.

Destroyer

Sept. 27 at Thalia Hall

Dan Bejar, the lit professor lookalike behind Destroyer, arrives here in support of his latest album, "Poison Season."

The Orb

Sept. 27 at Metro

Ambient house pioneers the Orb (go back and spin the track "Little Fluffy Clouds" if you've never heard it ... we'll wait) continued to craft dreamy, downtempo electronica on this year's "Moonbuilding 2703 AD."

A$AP Rocky, Tyler, the Creator, Danny Brown and Vince Staples

Sept. 27 at Aragon Ballroom

This inspired lineup brings together a quartet of sharp-tongued, undeniably unique rappers. Here's hoping for some kind of onstage collaboration between the four.

Madonna

Sept. 28 at United Center

The once-and-forever Queen of Pop isn't quite ready to abdicate the throne—check "Rebel Heart's" "Bitch I'm Madonna," a chest-thumping boast that serves notice to the imitators—and this career-surveying arena tour should serve as ample reminder of her long-running musical dominance.

ANDY DOWNING IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

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Beach House

Beach House's 'Depression Cherry' sticks to the usual

SOUND BOARD

Josh Terry

» jterry@redeyechicago.com
» @joshhterry

If there's anything defining Beach House, it's consistency. The Baltimore synth-pop duo would never subvert its status quo and release a "Kid A"; its specialty is good records of moody indie pop, located somewhere between the minimalism of Mazzy Star and the ethereality of Cocteau Twins, undergoing subtle tweaks since Beach House's 2006 self-titled debut.

"Depression Cherry," its fifth full-length, is another minor shift. But where Beach House spent nearly a decade effectively beefing up its production with every release (see the maximalist sonics of singles "Wild" and "Other People" from 2012's "Bloom"), this new album is a retreat to the simpler, unfussy feel of the first two records. Again the straightforwardness suits the band well, starting with opener "Levitation," which is beautiful and weightless as nothing, but chiming synths and singer Victoria Legrand's cooing falsetto combine to feel like the whole arrangement is floating.

Throughout, Legrand, who's more known for her hazy contralto, lends every offering a certain dreaminess (the soaring harmonies of a track like "10:37" stand as highlights, and the ornate, choral nature of closer "Days of Candy" is simply angelic). When she sings melancholic lines as unassuming as the "PPP" couplet, "Like tracing figure eights on ice in skates oh well/And if this ice should break it would be my mistake," there's enough personality to completely animate the words. On that song, guitarist Alex Scally, the band's secret weapon, lets loose some woozy riffs to make it a near-perfect single.

Other times, like on "Bluebird," the duo makes the same midtempo indie pop we've come to expect. While it's a worthy track, it's no different than many of the other album cuts throughout its catalog. This happens again on "Wildflower," another casualty of Beach House sticking to its guns a little too closely. For the past nine years, the duo has crafted its own inviting but foggy vibe. This is a testament to its ability to make an undeniable atmosphere, but a little variation with tempo or mood would suit the band well.

With any back-to-basics record from a supremely reliable if unexciting band, it's a challenge to determine whether it's worthwhile as a new release as opposed to fans just revisiting the early catalog. "Depression Cherry," while one of the prettiest records of the year, doesn't exactly prove why supporters shouldn't just go back to Beach House's "Devotion" or its self-titled debut.

beach house
depression cherry

REVIEW
Depression Cherry
Beach House
★★★☆

ON SALE NOON THURSDAY
Los Lobos, Sunday, Dec. 13, Monday, Dec. 14, Tuesday, Dec. 15, Wednesday, Dec. 16 ($55-$75, all ages) at City Winery.

on sale

* = JOSH TERRY RECOMMENDED SHOWS

ON SALE 11 A.M. WEDNESDAY
* **Pentimento**, Saturday, Oct. 17 ($12-$14, all ages) at Subterranean.

ON SALE NOON THURSDAY
* **Mason Jennings**, Thursday, Nov. 12 ($28-$36, all ages) at City Winery.

ON SALE 10 A.M. FRIDAY
The Acacia Strain, Thursday, Nov. 12 ($15, all ages) at Bottom Lounge.

Emery, **The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus,** Wednesday, Nov. 4 ($18, all ages) at Bottom Lounge.

* **The Features**, Thursday, Nov. 5 ($13-$15, 17+) at Subterranean.

Roger Clyne & The Peacemakers, Saturday, Nov. 14 ($22, 21+) at Subterranean.

ON SALE NOW
Landshapes, Thursday, Oct. 8 ($10-$12, 17+) at Subterranean.

Oil Boom, Wednesday, Nov. 18 ($8, 17+) at Downstairs at Subterranean.

Shahman, Tuesday, Sept. 22 ($8, 17+) at Downstairs at Subterranean.

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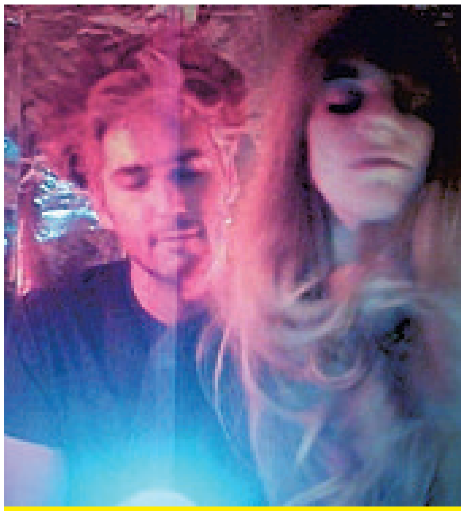

ON SALE NOW
* **Ringo Deathstarr**, Friday, Oct. 23 ($10, 17+) at Downstairs @ Subterranean.

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* **Girl Band**, Sunday, Dec. 20 ($10-$12, 17+) at Subterranean.

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‘A Walk in the Woods’ is soft, mushy and sad

FAST PAISED
Matt Pais
» mpais@redeyechicago.com
» @mattpais

Because “A Walk in the Woods” quickly wanders from a funny look at life at a crossroads to an obvious series of embarrassing nonsense and basic observations about nature and people, let’s just rattle off some things bumbling around my head during the movie:

“Nick Offerman as an employee in a camping gear store? Best casting ever. That’s his only scene? Crap.”

“Is Nick Nolte’s character’s named Katz because his voice sounds like old cats strangling each other?”

“Mary Steenburgen (“Last Vegas”) is officially the token hottie of movies directed at the 60-and-over crowd.”

“These older men observing beautiful mountain scenery definitely aren’t familiar with the indie rock currently accompanying their views.”

“One guy used to play drums and the other played harmonica? Would love to hear that duet.”

“At no point in any movie ever should someone sincerely remark, ‘Ain’t that life?’ ”

OK, enough of that. The movie, if you even care at this point, features two senior gentlemen (Robert Redford, Nolte) attempting to hike the 2,118-mile Appalachian Trail, stretching from Georgia to Maine. Resulting shenanigans include Katz plopping on top of Bryson (Redford) when the former’s bed plummets from the top bunk; the guys childishly trying to escape an annoying know-it-all (Kristen Schaal) on the trail; Katz attempting to duck the husband of a woman he picks up in a laundromat by helping her get her underwear out of the machine; Bryson trying to get on Katz’s shoulders; and, sorry, I can’t go on, it’s just painful.

And sad, really. The first scene, in which Bryson, an accomplished travel writer, endures an atrocious morning TV interview, suggests wit that soon vanishes, much like Emma Thompson in a very small part as Bryson’s wife. This year’s superior “I’ll See You in My Dreams” reiterated that just because a movie features actors of a certain age doesn’t mean its content can’t be universal (aside from some sitcommy stuff, which is a lot worse in “Woods”). Here, director Ken Kwapis’ (“License to Wed”) adaptation of Bryson’s memoir joins “Wild,” “Tracks” and “The Way” on the list of recent movies about long treks, and the best thing to be said about it is that it’s not as horrible as “The Way.” And if you’ve never seen a movie before, Bryson’s constant assertion that he won’t write a book about his journey will set you up for a big twist ending!

★½

A WALK IN THE WOODS
R

Robert Redford (left) and Nick Nolte in ‘A Walk in the Woods’

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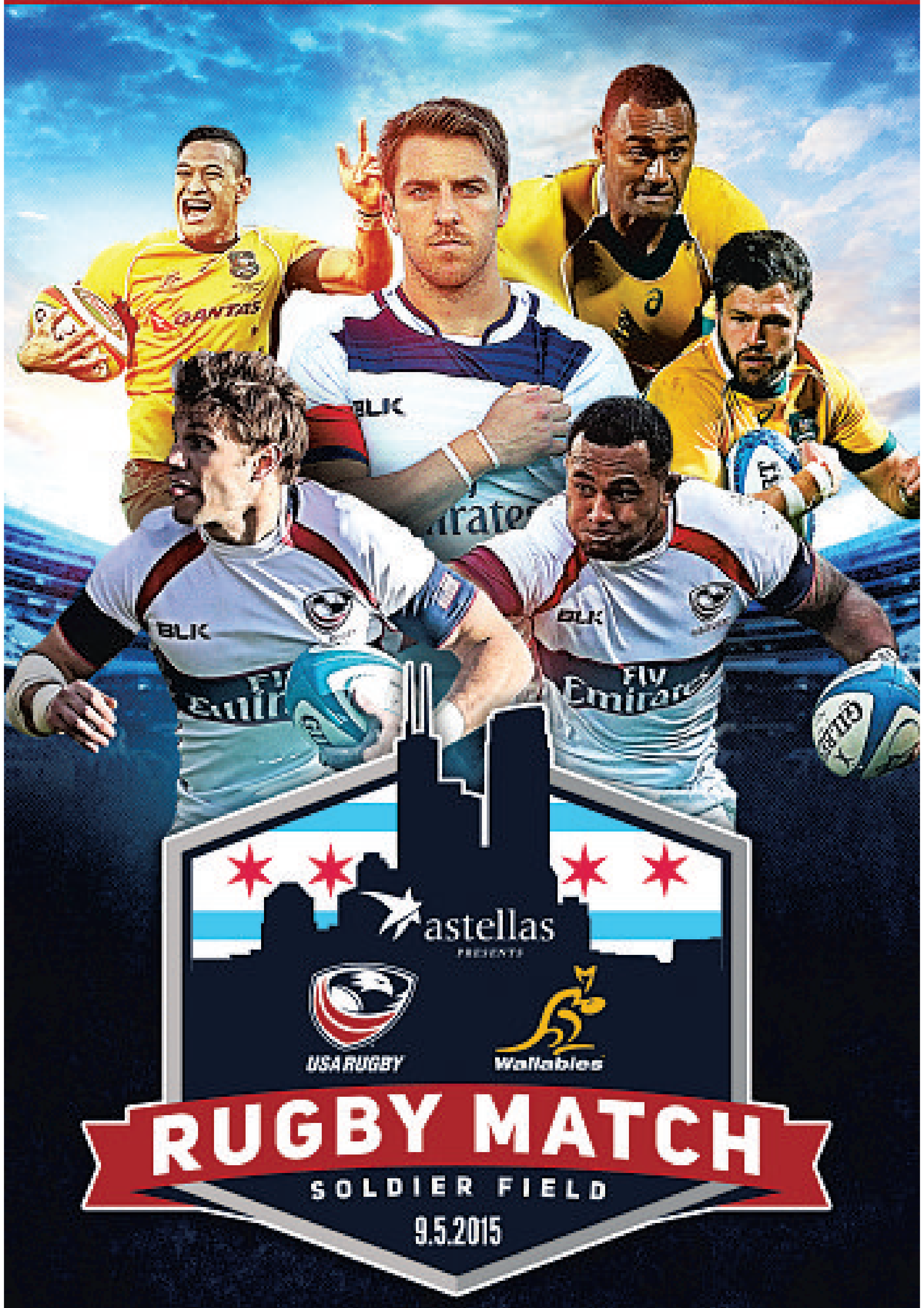
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Bryce Dallas Howard (from left), Chris Pratt, Nick Robinson and Ty Simpkins in "Jurassic World"

Hollywood on track for strong summer box office

By Richard Verrier and Sara Hamedy

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Hollywood is on track to post one of its strongest summers ever at the box office, and a big part of that has been its success in bringing in the young adults who remain the most frequent moviegoers—despite all the hand-wringing that younger people are shunning traditional media in favor of streaming services, video games and digital entertainment.

It wasn't all roses—20th Century Fox's "Fantastic Four" flopped, and Adam Sandler added to his string of box-office duds with Sony Pictures' "Pixels." But when the summer box-office season wraps up on Labor Day, ticket sales are expected to reach $4.4 billion in the U.S. and Canada, up 8 percent over last summer, tying it for the second-best summer ever (the record of $4.75 billion was set in 2013).

Although average ticket prices reached a record $8.17 last year, going to the movies is still a bargain compared with other activities such as sporting events, concerts or theme parks.

"It's the most affordable form of entertainment out there," said John Fithian, president of the National Assn. of Theatre Owners. "Even a night of bowling is more expensive."

The key is that Hollywood has to deliver the goods. This summer, it did with films that were fan favorites, critically acclaimed or both. Universal's "Jurassic World" alone has made nearly $643 million this summer.

"If you have films people want to see and you've made them well and marketed them well, people will continue wanting to see them," said Nick Carpou, Universal's head of domestic distribution. "It's good for everyone because it keeps the habit of going to the movies fresh."

Studios have been careful to balance out their slates to provide a mix of movies. This summer, for example, many female-driven films were timed to be released concurrently with male-centric films.

So on the same June 5 weekend that Vinny and the boys hit the big screen with "Entourage," Melissa McCarthy's comedy "Spy" debuted. Amy Schumer's comedy "Trainwreck" launched July 17 against Marvel's "Ant-Man."

The summer's box office was driven by Universal and Disney, each of which grossed more than $1 billion. Universal was the leader with a string of hits that included "Jurassic World," "Pitch Perfect 2" and "Straight Outta Compton." Disney scored with Pixar movie "Inside Out" and Marvel superhero film "Ant-Man."

Warner Bros. came in third place this summer as hits such as "Mad Max: Fury Road" and "San Andreas" were tempered by misses including "Entourage" and spy drama "The Man From U.N.C.L.E."

"The industry is alive and well," said Dan Fellman, president of domestic distribution for Warner Bros. "I do think this is going to be the biggest year in the history of the domestic box office."

Fellman and other studio executives expect domestic box-office revenue will reach $11 billion this year, surpassing the record of $10.9 billion in 2013. That's not counting growing sales from China and other countries.

"The notion that people aren't going to the movies anymore and the industry is dying is absurd," said Phil Contrino, vice president and chief analyst at **boxoffice.com**. "People don't go to the movies by reflex, they go to the movies because they are excited by the content. There were plenty of massive hits this year and there are more to come."

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WORTH A TRIP

By Morgan Olsen | REDEYE

Back in the sixth grade, no party was complete without stuffed-crust pizza. God forbid your mom forgot to specify your crust preference to the Pizza Hut operator. It was a novel idea at the time: cram more cheesy goodness into a doughy crust for a lactose lover's dream. I'd forgotten all about my fascination with stuffed-crust pies until I stumbled upon a totally grown-up version while perusing Instagram. Unlike the kind that fueled grade school parties, this one was draped in speck and spicy salami and drizzled with fragrant truffle oil. The crust was pulled into a star shape and stuffed with dollops of ricotta cheese and more salami. Be still, my heart.

I found out the necessary details—what, where, how soon could I get there—and made my way to Dolce Italian in River North. The pie in question was called the Startufata, which isn't on the Miami import's regular menu. It's a secret item that must be requested by name (or "that star-shaped pizza with salami"). It's not that the pie is too decadent for the masses; it's just that it takes longer to prepare. While a regular Dolce pizza takes a minute or two to prep, the Startufata takes three. It has to cook longer too—about five to six minutes compared to a regular pizza that cooks in two and a half minutes. "It takes time to even get [the preparation] down properly too," chef Paolo Dorigato said. "It's not that we keep it for special people; everyone is special. But when you have a rush, it's hard to stop service just to make it."

My heart dropped when the bartender told me he'd have check if the chef could prepare it. But after a few nerve-wracking moments, he was returned with a smile and good news: The Startufata was in my immediate future.

The tough thing about Instagram food crazes is you never know what you're going to get in real life. A professional camera, good lighting and a few filters can make anything look amazing. But when the pizza emerged from the kitchen, it was everything I'd hoped for. The dish is actually a variation of a regular menu item, the bianca-style Tartufata pizza ($18). For an additional $3, the crust is contorted into a star and stuffed with cheesy, meaty goodness.

The result is a pizza with three distinct parts: a beginning, a middle and a very happy ending. My first bite was simple but overwhelmingly delicious: chewy dough topped with mozzarella sourced from Wisconsin and ricotta and glazed with truffle oil. "We let the dough age for 72 hours," Dorigato said. "If we can, we leave it resting in the fridge for four to five days." On the second bite, I ripped off a hunk of speck (smoky Italian prosciutto) and spicy salami, worthy substitutes for salty pepperoni. Finally, the stuffed crust was in sight: a perfectly triangular pocket of housemade ricotta and spicy salami. At this point, the guy sitting next to me at the bar looked over with remorse. "What'd you say that was called again?" he asked.

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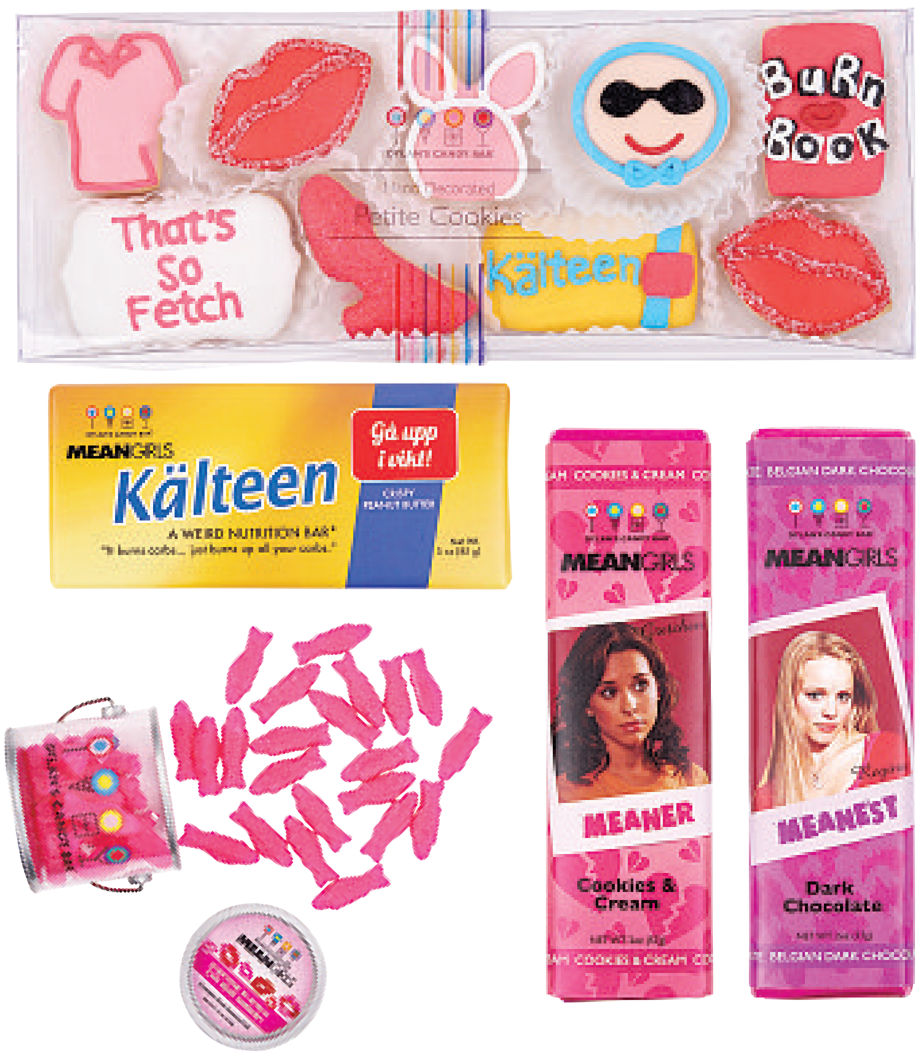


THAT'S SO FETCH

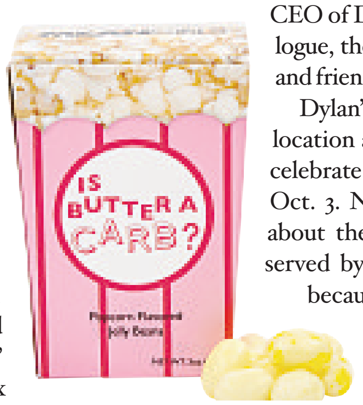
DYLAN'S CANDY BAR SELLING 'MEAN GIRLS'-THEMED CANDY

By Tracy Swartz | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Regina George may want to stay away from Dylan's Candy Bar.

The candy store chain has collaborated with Paramount Pictures to create a collection of "Mean Girls"-themed candy that will be sold online and in stores, including the Chicago location, starting this week, a Dylan's publicist said.

The line of candies honors the 2004 movie written by Tina Fey and starring Lindsay Lohan and Rachel McAdams (who played George) as teenagers surviving life at a fictional North Shore high school.



The candies, which are named for inside jokes from the movie, include "Is Butter a Carb?" popcorn-flavored jelly beans for $6; a "Burn Book" cookie for $6 and a "You Go Glen Coco" pink hot chocolate mix for $12.50. A "Kalteen" bar, which is a nod to George's failed weight-loss efforts, sells for $5.25.

The line also includes several accessories, such as a "Get in loser, we're going shopping" tote bag for $20 and "Her hair is so big because it's full of secrets" hair ties for $12. For cool moms everywhere, there's a "I'm not a regular mom, I'm a cool mom" plastic wine tumbler with gummy bears for $23.

"There is a reason a movie like 'Mean Girls' is such a hit," said Dylan Lauren, founder and CEO of Dylan's Candy Bar. "The witty dialogue, the authenticity, girl empowerment and friendship ... these things are timeless."

Dylan's stores, including the Chicago location at 445 N. Michigan Ave., plan to celebrate "National 'Mean Girls' Day" on Oct. 3. No details have been announced about the occasion, which has been observed by fans on social media for years because of an obscure quote from the movie.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY REDEYE EAT & DRINK EDITOR MORGAN OLSEN

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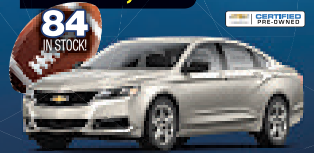

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■	S	T	R	I	N	G	■	■	J	U	R	I	E	S
■	■	■	I	T	S	■	■	H	E	L	E	N	■	■
S	H	A	V	E	■	■	B	A	S	E	■	G	P	A
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O	V	E	R	■	I	R	A	T	E	■	R	I	C	K
B	E	S	S	■	I	N	T	E	R	■	A	N	T	S

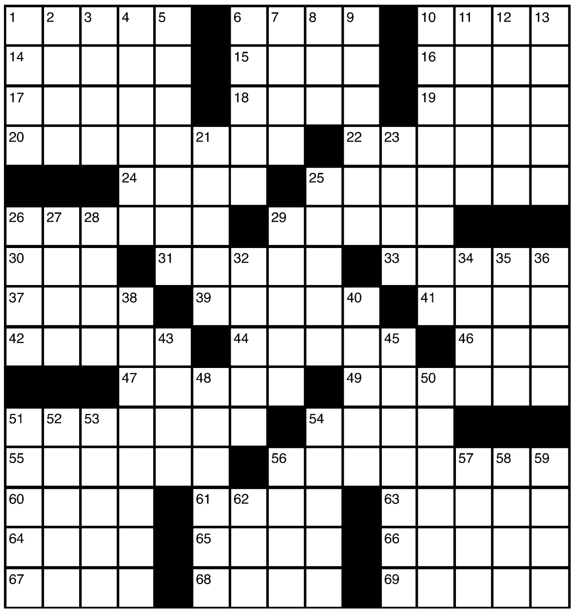
TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

1901: Vice President Theodore Roosevelt offered the advice, "Speak softly and carry a big stick" in a speech at the Minnesota State Fair.

1944: During World War II, Navy pilot George Herbert Walker Bush was shot down by Japanese forces as he completed a bombing run over the Bonin Islands.

1963: "The CBS Evening News" with Walter Cronkite was lengthened from 15 to 30 minutes, becoming network television's first half-hour nightly newscast.

1985: It was announced that a U.S.-French expedition had located the wreckage of the Titanic about 560 miles off Newfoundland.



ACROSS

1 Remini and her namesakes
6 Middle-__; neither young nor old
10 Black card
14 Permit
15 Part of the ear
16 Sharpen
17 Exact duplicate
18 __ at; touches lightly, as with paint
19 "__ Small World"
20 Highly respected
22 J. K. Rowling hero Harry __
24 __ on; incite
25 Capital of New Hampshire
26 Traveler's inn
29 Mend with a tiny bit of cloth
30 Unnecessary commotion
31 Happen again
33 Bird of prey
37 Curtain holders
39 Ointment
41 Wrench or saw
42 Stretch of land
44 Say "Baa!"
46 Stir-fry pan
47 Desert refuge
49 Cary and Hugh
51 Belly
54 Lowly laborer
55 Baby's sock
56 Home loan
60 Thin coin
61 Swimming spot
63 The day before tomorrow
64 Consumer
65 Covetousness
66 Wipe away
67 "I couldn't care __"
68 Not shallow
69 Skateboarder's inclines

DOWN

1 Frilly trimming
2 Building wings
3 "Thanks __"; bit of sarcasm
4 Truthful
5 Broom user
6 Tree with catkins
7 Prod
8 Decrease
9 Tyrant
10 Talk informally
11 Game often run by the state
12 Racer Al __, Jr.
13 Facial hair
21 Beasts of burden
23 All at __; suddenly
25 Sculpt
26 Male red deer
27 Stench
28 Drink made with ice cream
29 Tugs on
32 Forest home
34 Grad's garb
35 Money, slangily
36 Forest animals
38 Kids' vehicles
40 Very willing
43 Subdue
45 Horse bred for harness racing
48 Leaked out
50 Soft yarn
51 Singer/dancer Paula __
52 Idaho's capital
53 Capitol roof features, often
54 Unwanted nasal growth
56 Scoot over
57 Eve's husband
58 Audible breath
59 Watches
62 Afternoon hour

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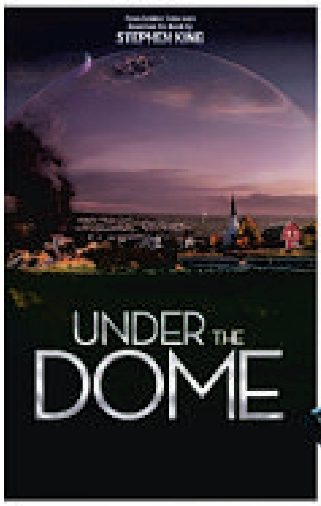

Six feet under (the dome)

CBS has canceled the show "Under the Dome" after three seasons, according to **deadline.com**. The Stephen King adaptation's final episode is set to air Sept. 10.

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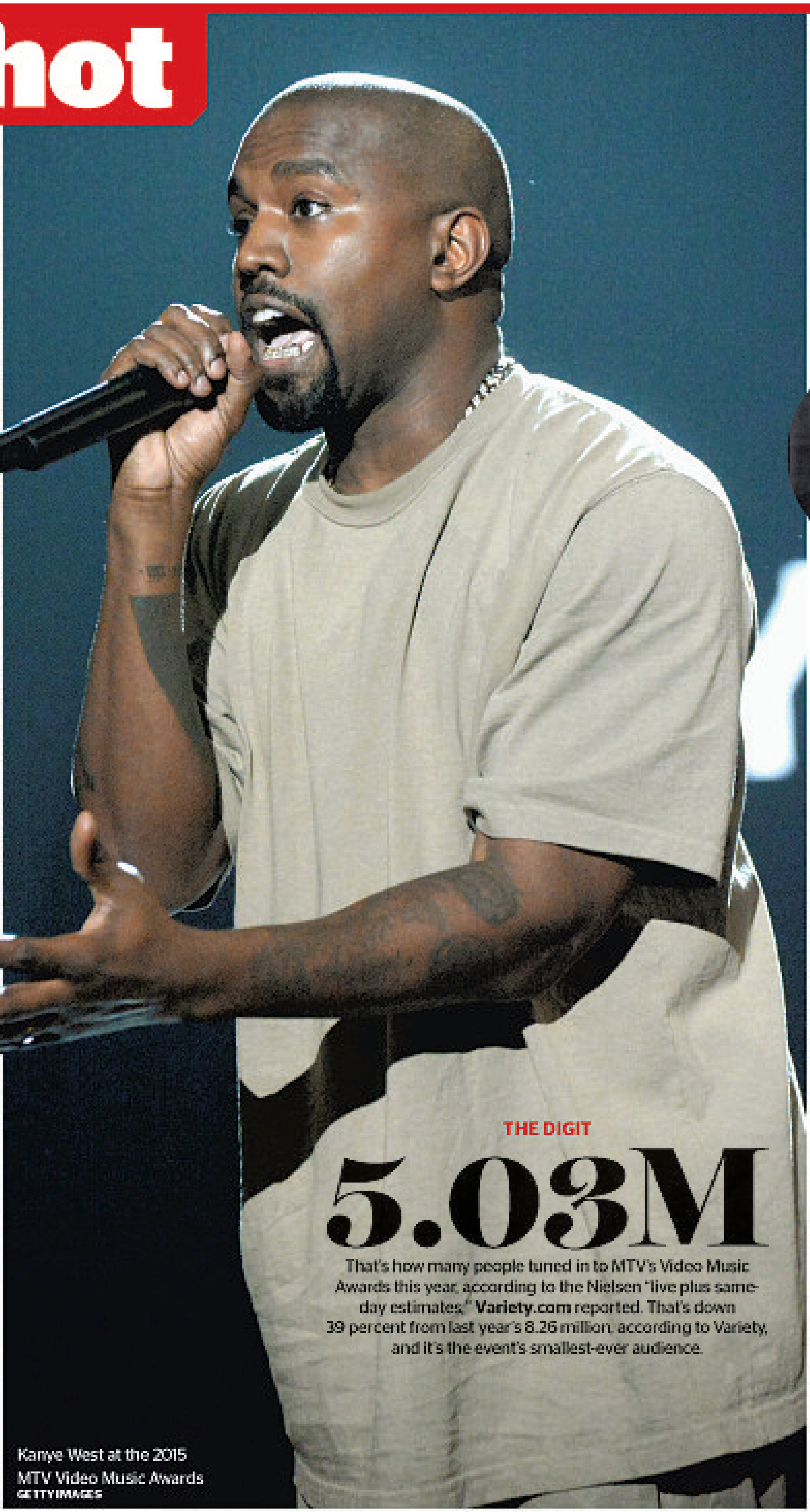
THE QUOTE

"Everything he does is fabulous, spectacular, wonderful, amazing."

—Republican presidential hopeful **Chris Christie**, talking about Donald Trump to Jimmy Fallon. Christie was a guest on "The Tonight Show" on Monday and talked about the upcoming presidential race. Trump himself will appear on the show Sept. 11, according to **ew.com**.


Kanye West at the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards
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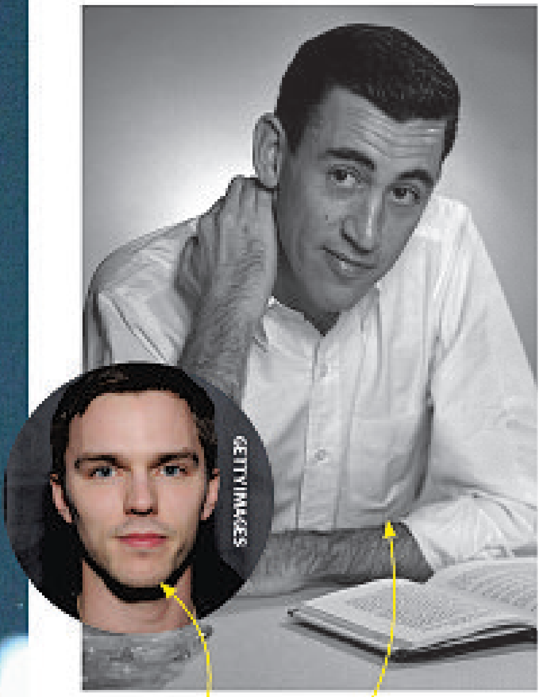
THE DIGIT

5.03M

That's how many people tuned in to MTV's Video Music Awards this year, according to the Nielsen "live plus same-day estimates," **Variety.com** reported. That's down 39 percent from last year's 8.26 million, according to Variety, and it's the event's smallest-ever audience.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Finding J.D. Salinger

Nicholas Hoult has been tapped to play author **J.D. Salinger** in the upcoming drama "Rebel in the Rye." The movie, which was written and will be directed by Danny Strong, will tell the story of the creation of Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye," according to **thr.com**.

Kesha the baby hater

Looks like **Kesha** is going to be the girl next door, and one who hates babies. The singer has been tapped to guest-star in the second episode of Season 2 of the CW's "Jane the Virgin" as Jane's new neighbor, a musician who is not a "baby person," according to **ew.com**. "We are so thrilled Kesha will be appearing on 'Jane!' " executive producer Jennie Snyder Urman said in a statement on Monday, EW reported. "We are all huge fans of hers, and we are so excited to welcome her to the 'Jane The Virgin' family."

WANT MORE DIRT? Oh, we've got dirt. Get the scoop on your favorite musicians, actors and reality TVers all day long at **redeyechicago.com/thefiller.**